

H.C. Burleigh Papers

Parkes

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THE PARKS FAMILY
of
England, Colonial New England and Canada.

This resume of the Parks Family was copied from the Parks Genealogy, which may be found in the State Library, Albany, N. Y., by me in October, 1938.

ROBERT PARKE (or Sir Robert Parke, as sometimes called) was born at Preston, England, in 1580. He and his family sailed from Cowes, Isle of Wight, England, for America on board the "Arabella," with seventy-six passengers, on March 29, 1630, and landed in Boston on June 17, 1630. He lived for a time in Roxbury, Mass. In 1639 he went with the first settlers to Wethersfield, Conn. In 1649 he removed to Pequot, Conn. He died at Mystic, Conn., Feb. 4, 1664-5, aged 84 years.

He married, firstly, at Semer, England, Martha, daughter of William and Elizabeth (Ansty) Chaplin, on Feb. 9, 1601-2. She was baptized at Semer Feb. 4, 1583-4. She is said to have died before Robert and family came to America. She was also the mother of Robert's children.

He married, secondly, at Wethersfield, Conn., about 1644, Mrs. Alice Thompson, widow of John Thompson, of Preston, England. Her daughter, by her first husband, Dorothy Thompson, was the wife of Robert's son, Thomas (see below).

Robert's children were:

1. Martha, born Oct. 6, 1603, at Semer, England.
2. Robert, born June 4, 1605, at Semer, England.
3. William, born April 21, 1607, at Semer, England.
4. THOMAS, born in England about 1609 (see below).
5. Samuel, born in England.
6. Anne, born in England.

THOMAS PARKE, fourth child of Robert and Martha (see above) was born in Preston, England, about 1609. He resided in Pequot, Conn., for six years, and then removed to Stonington (Mystic), Conn.

He married Dorothy, daughter of John and Alice Thompson of Preston, England (see above).

He died July 30, 1709.

His children were:

1. Martha, born Oct. 27, 1646.
2. Thomas, born April 16, 1648.
3. ROBERT (see below).
4. Nathaniel.
5. Dorothy, born March 6, 1652.
6. William, baptized in 1654.
7. John.
8. Alice.

ROBERT PARKE, born in New London, Conn., about 1651 (see above). He was a soldier in King Philip's War, and died in 1707.

He married, firstly, at Norwich, Conn., Nov. 24, 1681, Rachel, oldest daughter of Lieut. Thomas and Mary Leffingwell. She was born at Saybrook, Conn., March 17, 1648.

He married, secondly, Mary, daughter of Thomas Rose of Norwich, Conn.

His children were:

By first wife:

1. Rebecca, born Sept. 7, 1682.
2. JAMES (see below).
3. Joanna, born in 1692.

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By second wife:

4. Hezekiah.
5. Jemima, baptized at Stonington, Conn., July 15, 1694.
6. Robert, baptized Oct. 10, 1697.
7. Keziah, born at Preston, Conn., about 1700.
8. Margaret, baptized June 7, 1702.
9. Dorothy, baptized April 15, 1704.
10. Rose, baptized March 30, 1707.
11. Mary.

JAMES PARKE (see above) was born at Norwich, Conn., about 1700. He died about 1726-7.

He married Deborah Geere at Preston, Conn., on March 21, 1709. She was the daughter of Jonathan and Mary (Allyn) Geere. She died Dec. 10, 1736.

His children were:

1. Aaron, born Nov. 4, 1711.
2. Rachel, born Nov. 14, 1714.
3. Deborah, born Aug. 10, 1716.
4. Robert, baptized in 1718.
5. Rebecca, baptized in 1720.
6. NATHAN, baptized in 1722. (see below)
7. Jeremiah, baptized in 1725.

NATHAN PARKE (or Parks), baptized at Preston, Conn., Dec. 22, 1722. He moved from Preston about 1756 to Salisbury, Conn. They finally located in New York State (in Kingsbury Town, Albany County).

He married Mary Walton at Preston, Conn., on Oct. 15, 1747.

His children were:

1. Rachel, born Mar. 27, 1748.
2. Zerviah, born Jan. 22, 1749-50.
3. Fanny, married Jotham Worden.
4. JAMES, born Sept. 7, 1755. (see later)
5. Oliver, born Sept. 5, 1755.
6. Robert.
7. Squier.
8. RANA (should be Cyrenius.) (see below).

CYRENIUS (or Rana) Parke, born in Preston, Conn., in 1753-4, and died at Hay Bay, Ontario, Canada, in 1827.

He married, first, Elizabeth -----, who was born in 1755.

He married, second, in 1789, Elizabeth, daughter of Jacob Huffman.

He lived near Albany, N. Y., where he espoused the British side in the Revolution, and had to leave New York State. He was a King's Ranger in 1780; was honorably discharged Dec. 24, 1783, and moved to Hay Bay the next year, where he had been granted a large tract of land.

Children by first marriage:

1. Elizabeth.
2. Nathaniel.
3. Sarah.
4. Cornelius.
5. Joseph.
6. James, probably died young.
7. Deborah.
8. Archibald.

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Children by second marriage:

9. Florinda.
10. John.
11. Cyrenius.
12. James.
13. Elias.
14. Margaret.
15. Daniel.
16. Charlotte.
17. David, born in 1807.
18. Hannah.
19. Susannah.
20. Mylo, born Oct. 8, 1812.

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Additional information regarding the Parks Family of Hay Bay derived from various sources.

The Parke Family Bible, as copied incompletely on 26 Nov., 1956, by a friend of mine. It was then in the possession of Miss Elsie Parke, a retired school teacher, living on Mill Street, Napanee, Ont. Unfortunately, my friend did not copy it word for word.

Bought at Kingston--cost £1.10.0--on January ye 10th, 1793.

James Parke, born 1728.

Sarah, his wife.

Children:

1. James, born 13 Nov., 1746.
2. Joseph, born in 1748.
3. Sarah, born 4 Dec., 1750.
4. Hannah, born 4 Dec., 1752.
5. Cyrenius, born 22 Dec., 1754; died 22 Aug., 1828.
6. Nathaniel, born 11 March, 1748
7. Cornelius, born 26 Oct., 1761.
8. Charlotte, born 15 May, 1764.
9. Clarinda, born 23 Feb., 1766.

Cyrenius Parke, born 22 Dec., 1754 (see above).

Elizabeth (his wife), born 21 Dec., 1755.

Children:

- 1. Nathaniel.
- 2. Sarah, born 7 Dec., 1777.
- 3. Cornelius.
- 4. Joseph.
- 5. James.
- 6. ---,
- 7. Archibald, born in 1786.
- 8. Elizabeth, born in 1788.

Elizabeth (second wife), born in 1770.

Children:

9. Clarinda, born in 1790.
10. John Cyrenius, born in 1791.
11. Cyrenius, born in 1793.

Baptism records from Lang-

horn Parish Register

(James) baptized 27 Dec., 1790

" 6 Jan., 1792.

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12. James, born in 1795.	baptized 30 June, 1795.
13. Mary, born in 1797.	
14. Elias.	" 4 Feb., 1799.
15. Daniel.	" 2 Feb., 1801.
16. Charlotte.	" 31 Jan., 1803.
17. Hannah, born in 1804.	" 28 Jan., 1805.
18. David, born 21 Oct., 1807.	" 16 Nov., 1807.
19. Susanna, born in 1810.	" 25 June, 1810.
20. Mylo, born in 1810.	" 18 Jan., 1813.

(Note: The records which I have given up to now seem to be in disagreement in certain places. I give them for what they are worth. At least the baptisms from the Fredericksburgh Parish Register are correct.)

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The region of the present New York State which lies to the north of the city of Albany was, before 1763, neutral territory separating the English and the French settlements. After the Peace it became opened for settlement. One township, Kingsbury, lying to the north of the Hudson River, as it turns westward, was settled largely by families from the western part of Connecticut, mainly from New Milford and the county of Litchfield. Among these families were several who eventually settled in Fredericksburgh Township, namely Richardson, Brownson, Bradshaw, Sherwood and Parke. This group bargained for the Township in 1762, but did not settle until a year later, in 1763. The elder Parke, be he Nathan or James, was accompanied by his growing family, which included Cyrenius and James.

Cyrenius, according to his claim for losses, which he presented in 1787, in Montreal, stated that he had leased 150 acres in Kingsbury in 1773, likely shortly before, or after his first marriage, for which he was to pay 6 pounds per annum. He improved the land until he left in 1780 to join the British, claiming that he had cleared an additional 20 acres and had built a barn. In all he lost 3 oxen, 1 cow, 4 horses, furniture, farming utensils and some wheat. On this same date, Cyrenius presented the claim of his brother, James, who was blind and at Oswegatchie where he was being treated by a surgeon. James also had 150 acres of leased land, and had lost a cow, tools of various kinds, furniture, farming utensils, as well as 150 pine boards. James also claimed that he had been robbed of clothes and money by a Rebel scouting party in 1777.

The History of Queensbury Town (adjacent to Kingsbury) has a story that Cyrenus Parke was killed on his way to join the British in Canada. But, this is untrue. The monthly report of the Officer in command of St. John's, Quebec, supplying a list of all arrivals from the American Colonies for the month of November, 1780, contains the following:

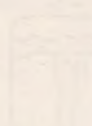
Sirinis Parks, from Charlotte County (then part of what was Albany County) arrived in Canada 13 November, brought in by Sergt. Moorhouse for Major Rogers' Corps, aged 26 years.

The annual muster roll of the King's Rangers for 1 Jan., 1782, lists both Cyrenius and his brother, James, as follows:

James Parks, born in New Milford, aged 24 yrs. 11 mos., 6 ft. 1 in., 1 year 8 months service.

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12/1/77



Cyrenius Parks, born in Litchfield, aged 27 yrs., 6 ft. 2 ins., 1 yr. 3 mo. service.

Both of the above appear in the muster of 21 Jan., 1783, except that they are a year older. In this last list appears the name of Nathan, the eldest son of Cyrenius and his first wife, Elizabeth. Nathan was then aged 10 years, with two months service.

Cyrenius Parks' wife, Elizabeth, and family first appear in a subsistence list of 30 July, 1781, at St. John, Quebec. Her age is given as 26 years. With her was a son, aged 6 years, a son, aged 1½ years, and a daughter, aged 3 yrs. During the subsequent years 1782 and 1783 the number of children remained unchanged, but an uncertainty in their ages and sex makes one suspect that deaths, as well as births, occurred in the family. The first muster roll in Fredericksburgh Township, dated 6 October, 1781, shows the family status as follows:

		man woman		sons		daughters	
				over 10	under 10	over 10	under 10
H. Rangers	Cyrenius Parks	1	1	0	1	1	1
do	Nathaniel Parks	1	0	0	0	0	0
do	James Parks	1	0	0	0	0	0

James Parks, who was shown to have a family of 6, apparently had left the family in the United States while on service. Nathaniel, then a boy of 11 years, is listed separately in this muster.

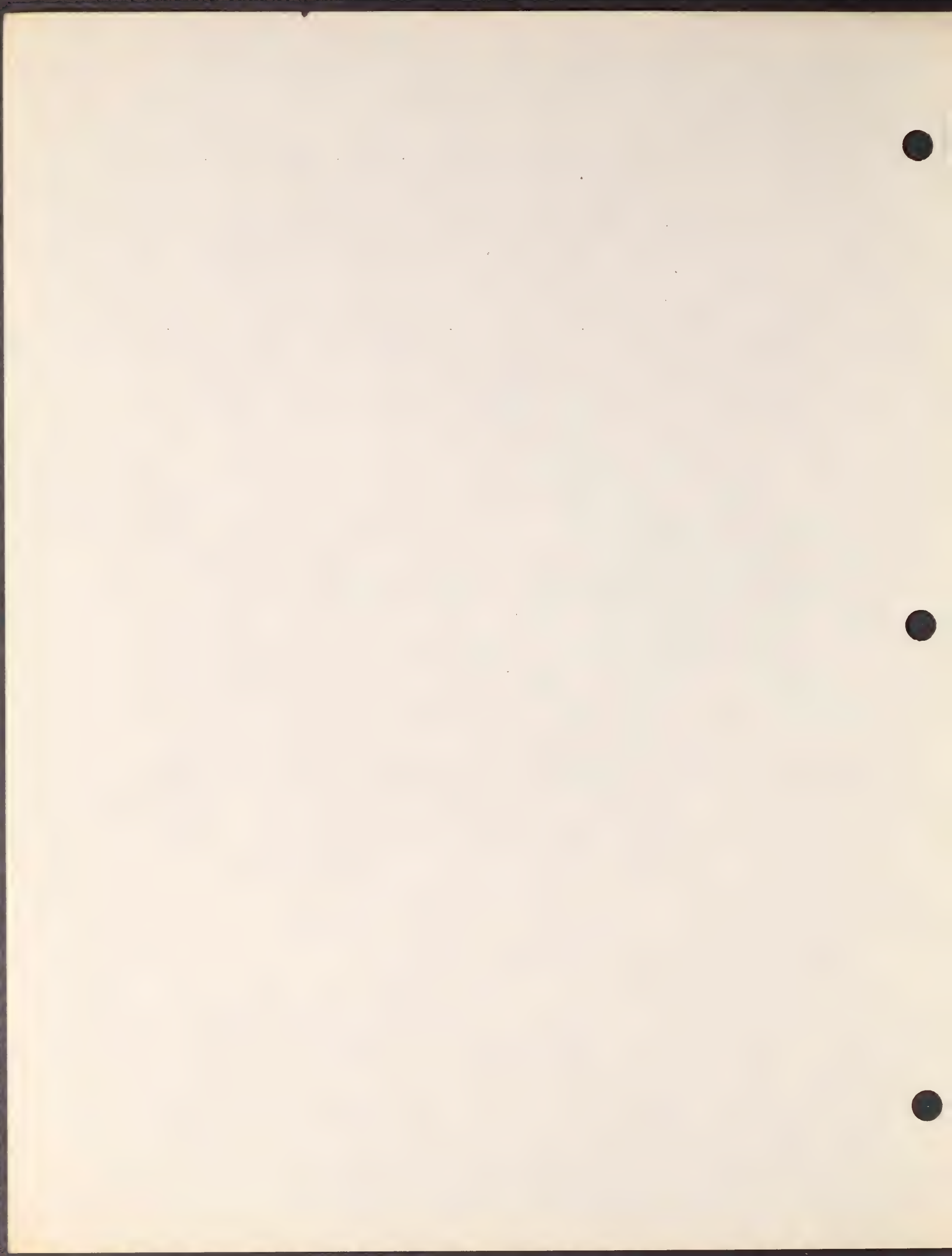
Both the Parks Genealogy and the Parks Family Bible show that Cyrenius had eight children by his first wife. Nathaniel, the eldest son, was born about 1773, while Elizabeth, the youngest child, was born in 1782. This last would place the death of the first wife, Elizabeth, in 1786 or 1789, evidently in Fredericksburgh. Cyrenius must have married his second wife, Elizabeth Hoffman, in 1788 or 1789, seeing that their first child, Clarinda, was ~~born in 1788 or 1789~~ born in 1788 or early in 1790, and that their second child, James, was baptized at St. Paul's Church, Fredericksburgh, on 27 Dec., 1790. This second wife, Elizabeth, was the daughter of Jacob Hoffman, a Loyalist of Palatine German extraction whose family removed to Ireland from the Rhine Valley about 1710, later coming to America in 1756. The Hoffmans resided in Garden Valley, northeast of Albany, N. Y., prior to the American Revolution.

In 1781, Cyrenius Parks, being a soldier, drew 100 acres of land. By 1791 this was increased to 200 acres. In addition, he was entitled to 50 acres as a married man, as well as 50 acres for each child. A tax list of 1808 for the Township of Fredericksburgh gives this interesting picture of his status:

Total acreage--2300 acres, of which 125 acres were under cultivation; he lived in a squared timber house of one story; owned 3 horses, 6 oxen, 9 milch cows, 6 horned cattle from 2 to 4 years old; his assessment was £33, 18 shillings (which was in the upper ten), and his share of the District Expenses was 18 shillings, 3½ pence.

Cyrenius became prominent in the militia of the Township and County, and served from the formation of militia immediately after settlement. He was a captain of the first Lennox Militia during the War of 1812.

Elias, the thirteenth child of Cyrenius, was born early in 1799, and was



baptized at St. Paul's Church, Fredericksburgh, on 4 Feb., of that year. In 1822, 26th March, Cyrenius deeded to Elias 50 acres, being part of Lot 9, Concession 3, Fredericksburgh. This land he willed to his family by his last testament, dated 7 Dec., 1836. This will was not proved until 17 July, 1837, at which time the land came to his son, Milo, who was his oldest child. Elias was only 38 at his death, which occurred between the above-mentioned dates.

Elias Parke married, about 1821, Sarah, daughter of Elias Pine, of Hempstead, Long Island. An article in the book, Pioneer Life On The Bay of Quinte, reveals that Elias and his family came to Prince Edward County about 1820, at the suggestion of Sarah's older brother, Benjamin, who had settled in Canada a few years before. Sarah, who was born in 1803, and died in 1889, was the mother of the following children by Elias Parke:

1. Nancy.
2. Milo.
3. James (Guy?)
4. Elizabeth.
5. Elias.
6. John.
7. William H.
8. Sarah J.

Elias J. ae 22
John " 20
Wm 14 " 16
Sarah Jane ae 18

Census of 1851

The Will of Elias names the following sons, without naming the daughters:

1. Milo.
2. Elias.
3. Guy.
4. John Fourshee.
5. William Henry.

Sarah Pine, widow of Elias Parke, married, secondly, about 1840, James Frink. They had two known children, according to the article in Pioneer Life On The Bay Of Quinte, namely:

1. Lucinda.
2. Benjamin, who was born 31 August, 1846.



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